

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

State of Arkansas
82nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 1999

As Engrossed: S3/16/99

A Bill

SENATE BILL 861

By: Senator Edwards

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 6-18-508 AND 509
PERTAINING TO ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES. "

Subtitle

"TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE PERTAINING TO
ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS. "

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-18-508 is amended to read as follows:

"6-18-508. Alternative learning environment.

(a) Every school district shall establish an alternative learning environment which shall afford students an environment conducive to learning.

(b) The alternative learning environment required by this section may be established by more than one (1) school district or may be operated by a public school educational cooperative established under § 6-13-901 et seq.

(c) The Department of Education shall establish criteria for teacher preparation for alternative learning environments, which shall include inservice training.

(d) Each school district shall report to the Department of Education, on a yearly basis, the race, gender, and other pertinent information regarding students placed in an alternative learning environment. This information shall be reported by the department to the Joint Interim Oversight Subcommittee on Educational Reform of the House and Senate Interim Committees on Education of the General Assembly by ~~June 30~~ September 15 of each year. The Pygmalion Commission will also report their findings by the same time each year to the

1 same legislative bodies.

2 (e) All funding for alternative education programs distributed outside
3 the funding formula and which meet the guidelines developed by the Department
4 of Education shall be released at the beginning of the school year or
5 distributed proportionally along with the state aid to school districts.

6 (f) For the 1999-2000 school year and each year thereafter, the
7 Department of Education will develop an incentive program for those school
8 districts whose alternative education program has met the guidelines."

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10 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code 6-18-509 is amended to add the following
11 additional subsections:

12 "(f) The Department of Education shall periodically, but not less often
13 than every three (3) years, monitor each school district or cooperative to
14 ensure that alternative learning environments have been established, are
15 conducive to learning, and are providing intervention services designed to
16 address individual needs of students.

17 (g) A school district that does not comply with the provisions shall be
18 identified each year in the Department of Education's annual school district
19 report card.

20 (h) Students who have received intervention services in an alternative
21 learning environment and obtain a general education diploma shall not be
22 identified as a drop-out in the statistics for annual school district report
23 cards."

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25 SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
26 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
27 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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29 SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
30 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
31 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
32 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
33 act are declared to be severable.

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35 SECTION 5. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
36 hereby repealed.

/s/ Edwards

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